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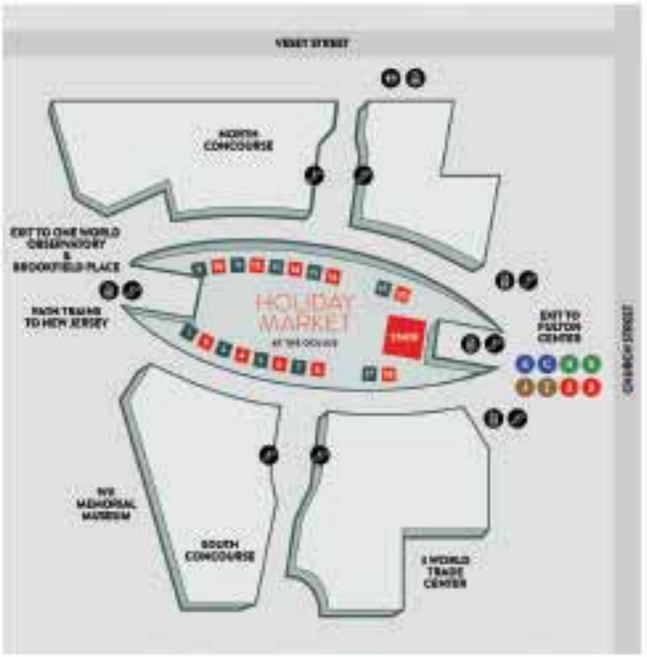

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TALE OF THE TAPE

Isles, Rangers almost identical through first 33 games this year. 21

Throwing axes in Gowanus. 18-19

Mets ownership is absolutely lost. 20

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FAMILY FEUDING

Armed with family survival tips from Dr. Ish Major of We TV's 'Marriage Bootcamp: Reality Stars,' you are going to survive this holiday season. We promise. 4

I-STOCK

WELCOME TO METRO.US

NIKKI M. MASCALI, REPORTER

It's the most wonderful time of the year ... for polarizing political discussions, reverting back to being a bratty kid and family fights. I know I'm not alone, so I looked to We TV's Dr. Ish Major for tips on making it through the land mine that can be holidays with family. You're welcome — now have yourself a happy holiday! Read more on **page 4** and visit **metro.us** for all our holiday coverage.

SEN. LEE SAYS HE WILL VOTE FOR TAX BILL

1 United States Republican Sen. Mike Lee of Utah said on Monday that he will support legislation to overhaul the U.S. tax system, leaving only two Republicans undecided as the bill approaches a final Senate vote this week. "Just finished reading the final Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. It will cut taxes for working Utah families. I will proudly vote for it," Lee said in a message he released on Twitter. Republicans, who control the 100-seat Senate by only a 52-48 margin, can lose support from no more than two party lawmakers if the bill is to pass. Republican Sens. Susan Collins and Jeff Flake have yet not said whether they will support the legislation. Sen. John McCain, who has brain cancer, will not be present for the vote.

CHARLOTTESVILLE POLICE CHIEF RETIRES

2 The police chief of Charlottesville, Virginia, announced his retirement on Monday, about two weeks after a report faulted his department and others for failing to protect public safety during a white nationalist rally in August that turned deadly. On Dec. 1, a three-month review by former U.S. Attorney Timothy Heaphy blamed law enforcement agencies for breakdowns in planning and coordination, as well as a timid response, that led to "disastrous results." Police Chief Al Thomas' retirement was effective immediately, the city said in a statement. The University of Virginia is located in Charlottesville. "Nothing in my career has brought me more pride than serving as the police chief for the City of Charlottesville," Thomas said in the statement, without providing a reason for his departure.

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

TRAIN DERAILMENT

3 **Emergency crews work at the scene of an Amtrak train derailment on Monday in DuPont, Washington. At least three people were killed when a passenger train car plunged from the bridge. The derailment also closed southbound I-5.** ***For more, see page 7.***

GETTY IMAGES

TAXPAYERS RUSH TO CLAIM DEDUCTIONS

4 Financial advisers and accountants are working overtime as many U.S. taxpayers scramble to pay the rest of their 2017 taxes before Jan. 1 when the proposed Republican tax overhaul would sharply cut the amount they can deduct on federal tax bills. The tax legislation, which top U.S. Republicans said on Sunday they expected Congress to pass this week, caps the amount of state, local and property taxes individuals can deduct from their federal tax bills at $10,000. The average American who itemized his or her tax bill in 2015 claimed more than $27,000 in deductions. While taxpayers have until Jan. 15 to pay the final installment of their 2017 taxes, Tom Holly of the accounting firm PwC said he received dozens of calls over the weekend from concerned clients eager to pay sooner.

TWITTER TO PUT WARNINGS BEFORE HATE IMAGES

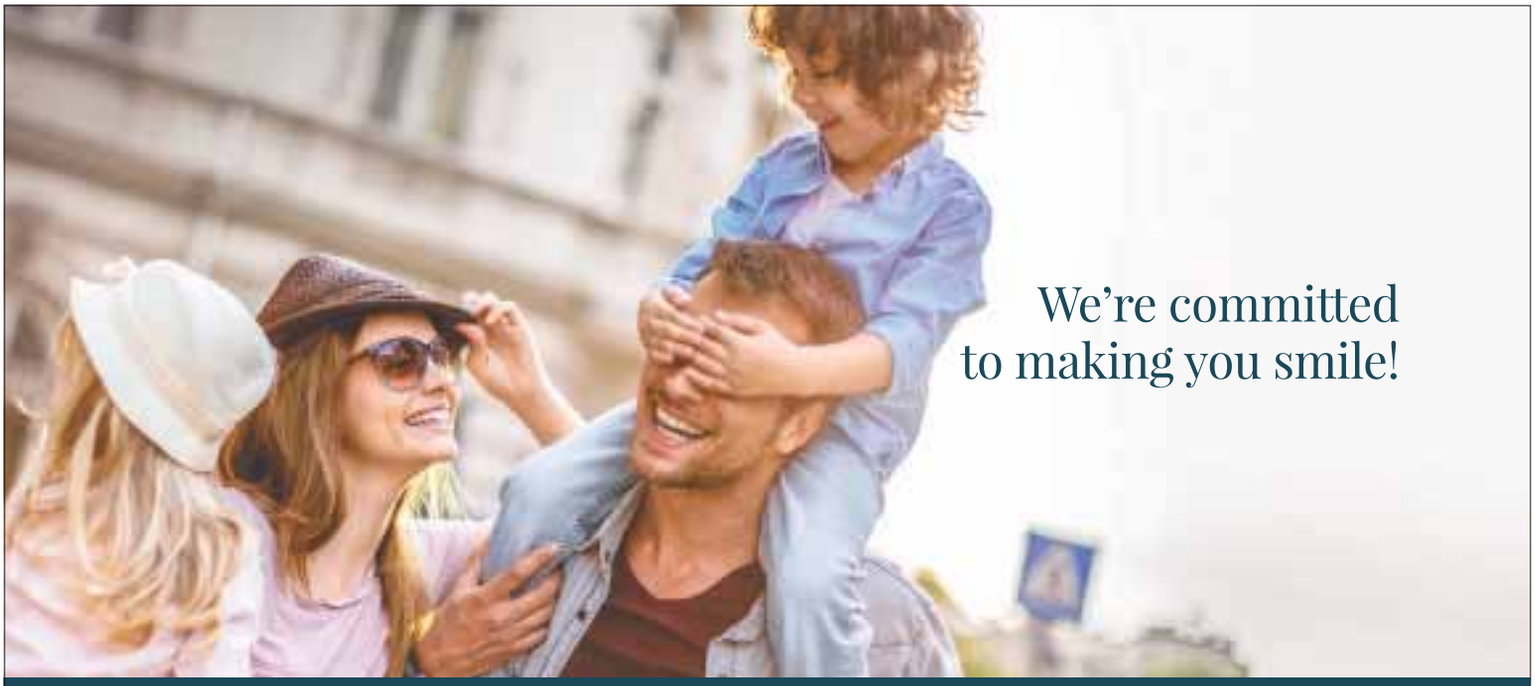
5 Twitter Inc. said on Monday it would begin issuing a warning before a user can see pictures with Nazi swastikas and other items it determines are hateful imagery, as well as prohibit their use in any profile photos on its social media network. The new policies also ban users who associate either online or offline with organizations that promote violence against civilians. The step is one of several that Twitter said it would take to crack down on white nationalists and other violent or hateful groups, which have become unwelcome on a service that once took an absolutist view of free speech.Twitter said in a statement that it would shut down accounts affiliated with non-government organizations that promote violence against civilians, and ban user names that constitute a violent threat or racial slur.

POLL

50%

Fifty percent of registered voters want Democrats to control Congress after the 2018 elections, a new poll finds — the highest number in nearly a decade, according to an NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll.

Source: NBC News/Wall Street Journal



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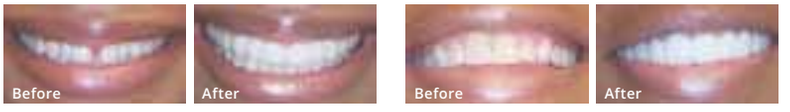

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The holidays can be an especially stressful time of year because of all the family get-togethers and obligatory conversations taking place. ISTOCK

How to survive the holidays with your family

Thanks to these tips, you just might make it through the holidays.

NIKKI M. MASCALI
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nikki.mascali@metro.us

The holidays, as you may know, can be a war zone for many families, maybe now more than ever.

But fear not, dear reader: We're arming you with tools to defuse any situation — from avoiding politics as you eat your roast beast (or beets) to Mom and Dad bulldozing over your parenting skills — from Dr. Ish Major, marriage counselor on We TV's "Marriage Boot Camp: Reality Stars."

What are the biggest relationship issues you see this time of year?
Dr. Ish Major: It's the end of the year, so people are normally taking stock of the year, things that have gone wrong, the things that have gone right. It's a big time for family, so you think about folks who aren't there and those you want to be there for the next year. A lot of couples make big decisions about whether this'll be the last Christmas they're going to do together or not — it's a big deal and a stressful time.

Why do we always revert to being a bratty kid when we're home with the whole family?
It's a time warp. If you go home and your parents are still with you, the last version of you that you remember is when you walked out the door (when you moved out). You slip back into that because those are the roles we're used to and comfortable in. It's hard to hide who you are in family; you did that for the first 18 years of life, and it's hard to break out of that cycle when you're shoved back into it.

How can we deter political conversations someone with different views is hell-bent on having?
When those holiday hits start to roll around, it's can really ruin your day, but there's a very, very cordial way to handle that. Preface the conversation by saying, "You know what, we're probably not going to end up agreeing on this, so we can agree to disagree. I will hear you out if you agree to hear me out."

What's the best way to handle relatives trying to discipline your kids or pets in a way that's different than you?
You have to pregame this with your kids. You say, "Here's what I want you to do for the next two to three hours." If you've got to bribe them, do it, promise them something fun.

Once you get in there, grandfolks, older siblings with kids of their own are always going to tell you what to do. Say, "Listen, thank you, guys, but these are my kids. You've got to take a backseat."

How can we carve out alone or friend time without hurting feelings?
It's time management; you've got to prioritize. Some friends you may see at New Year's. Folks you rarely see, family, blood, you've got to put them at the top of the list, and balance that with your partner also.

But at the same time, it doesn't make sense to make yourself miserable, so if this is one of your least-favorite folks in the world, you don't have to put them at the top of the list.

Dr. Ish Major of We TV's "Marriage Bootcamp: Reality Stars" PROVIDED

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Jackson Heights Community Office	93-14 Roosevelt Avenue, 1st Floor Jackson Heights, NY 11372	12/22	2pm–3pm
Richmond Hill Community Office	122-01 Liberty Avenue, 1st Floor South Richmond Hill, NY 11419	12/20, 1/3, 1/17	3pm–5pm
Bronx	**Address**	**Date**	**Time**
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E. Tremont Community Office	774 E. Tremont Avenue, 1st Floor Bronx, NY 10460	1/4	10am–11am
Long Island (Nassau County)	**Address**	**Date**	**Time**
Hempstead Community Office	50 Clinton Street, Suite 110A Hempstead, NY 11550	12/16, 12/30, 1/13, 1/27	2pm–3:30pm
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City competition looks to tech to replace gas-powered cars with electric vehicles

The NYCx moonshot challenge will award $20,000 for up to four finalists to transition to EVs as part of its bold climate goals.

NIKKI M. MASCALI
@NikkiMMascali
nikki.mascali@metro.us

The NYCx moonshot challenge will award $20,000 for up to four finalists to transition to EVs as part of its bold climate goals. PIXABAY

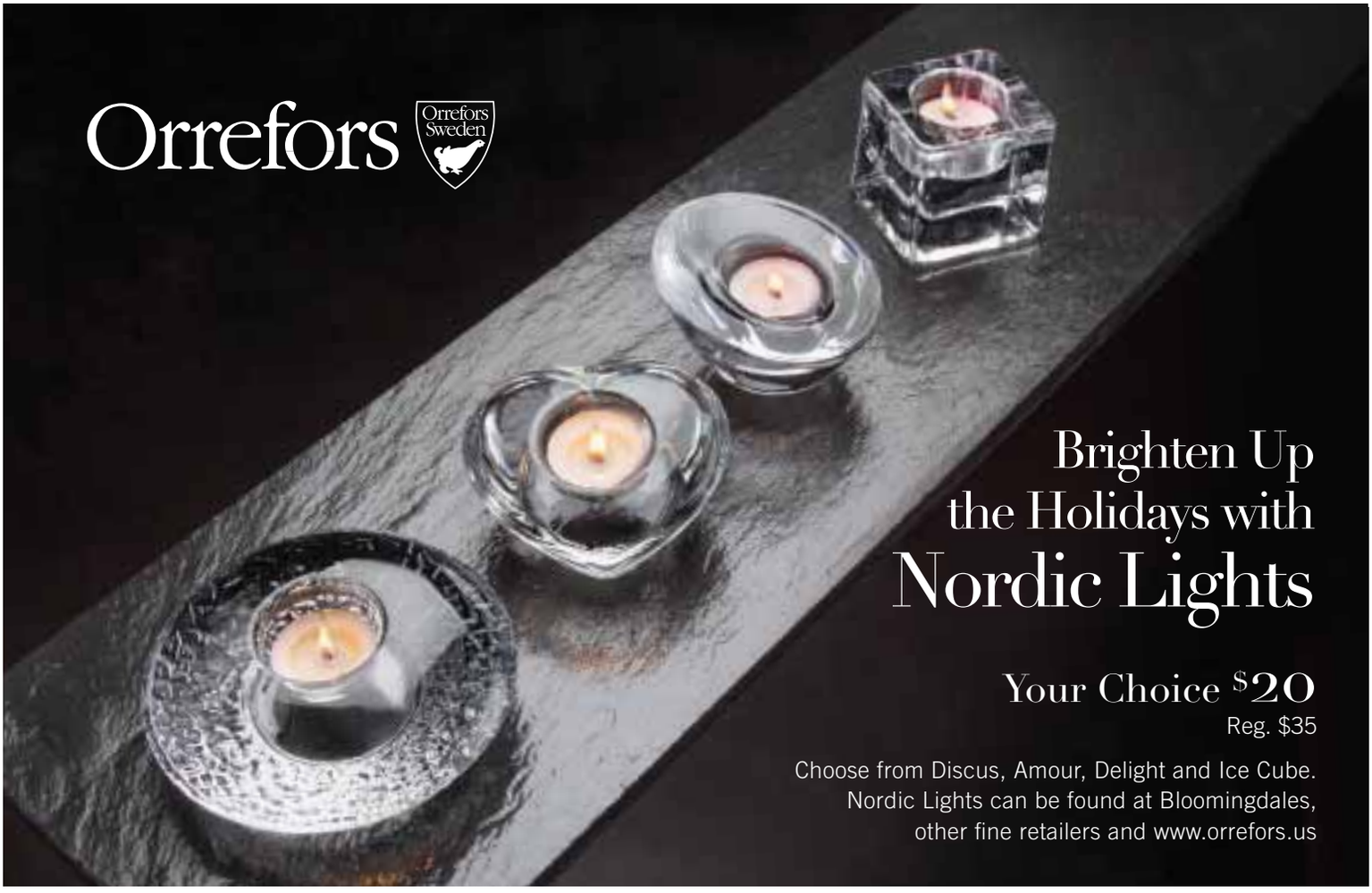
With about 30 percent of local greenhouse gas emissions coming from transportation in New York City, officials are looking for the tech industry's help in switching to electric vehicles.

On Monday, Mayor Bill de Blasio's administration announced the latest NYCx moonshot challenge to develop a transportation system using electric vehicles (EVs), which give off no emissions and require less maintenance.

"NYCx is mobilizing tech to accelerate our actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and calling on the disruptors and tech experts to join," de Blasio said in a statement

Up to four finalists will land $20,000 each to create and present their proposals to staff from the Department of Transportation and the Mayor's Office of Sustainability, which will complement a previous $10 million plan to develop fast-charging hubs with up to 20 chargers across the city.

"As the city embarks on an ambitious program to expand electrical vehicle charging infrastructure, we look forward to the innovative ideas arising from this challenge that will inform our own approach and maximize the usage of EV charging stations," said Polly Trottenberg, commissioner of the Department of Transportation.



Passengers killed when Amtrak train on new route derails in Washington state

The derailed train was carrying 77 passengers and five crew. PIERCE COUNTY SHERIFF

An Amtrak train derailed Monday in Washington state during its inaugural run on a faster route from Seattle to Portland, Oregon, sending passenger cars tumbling from a bridge onto a major highway, killing a number of riders and injuring nearly 100 people.

The derailment caused "multiple fatalities," Pierce County Sheriff's Department spokesman Ed Troyer said, without giving a specific number.

Thirteen of the train's 14 cars jumped the tracks, Washington State Patrol spokeswoman Brooke Bova said. Five vehicles and two trucks were involved in the accident; some motorists were injured but none died, authorities said.

Seventy-seven people were taken to local hospitals, according to the Tacoma-based CHI Franciscan Health healthcare network. Another 20 patients were treated at the Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, the center said.

Several hours after the 7:40 a.m. crash in DuPont, Washington, train cars remained dangling from the overpass, with others strewn across Interstate 5.

The train carried 77 passengers and five crew, Bova said.

People escaped by kicking out windows, passenger Chris Karnes told local news outlet KIRO 7.

"All of a sudden, we felt this rocking and creaking noise, and it felt like we were heading down a hill," Karnes said. "The next thing we know, we're being slammed into the front of our seats, windows are breaking, we stop, and there's water gushing out of the train."

The derailment occurred on the first day Amtrak began using a new route between the Washington cities of Tacoma and Olympia, part of a project to cut travel time, according to an October news release from the state's transportation department.

A National Transportation Safety Board member told reporters it was too early to say what caused the crash and that the NTSB was sending investigators to the scene. REUTERS

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Baby Boomers Benefitting From Knee Arthritis Tr

10-Minute Technology Guided FDA-Cleared Painless Medical Treatments.. Allows P

New York City - Nothing is more true. A life with constant pain is not a life worth living. And if you can't stay active and do all the things you love - like walking, playing golf, tennis, vacationing etc. It's not really a life at all.

...the Pain Is More Like A Prison

And for generations, knee arthritis has given good, hard working people a life sentence of pain and suffering. To make things worse, slick marketers only add to the pain by promising wonder cures. Late night television and your mail box are filled with "wonder arthritis cures" that make wild claims and sound too good to be true . . . ***Because They Are***

Nothing is worse than getting your hopes up - spending your hard earned money - only to be let down time after time.

It is easy to give up...

But while marketers were peddling "wonder cures," real doctors and researchers were hard at work trying to discover a real medical solution. Modern medicine eradicated small pox and polio. Through laser eye surgery, doctors can give almost blind people perfect 20/20 vision. The potential cures on the horizon with breakthroughs like stem cell and regenerative therapies are endless.

Solve The Riddle Of Arthritis Pain?

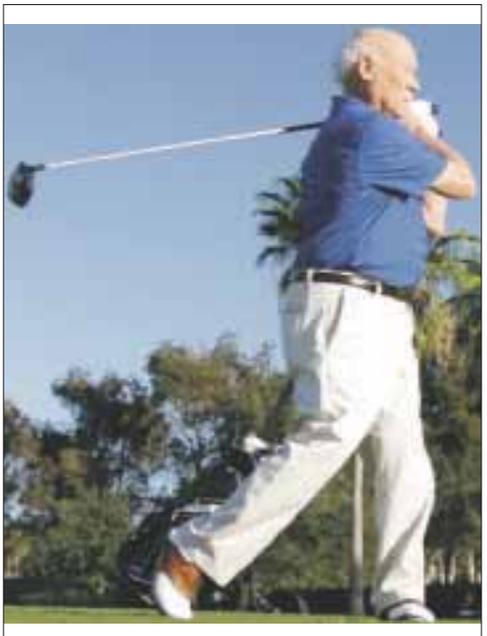
For the past 3 years, that's exactly what a medical clinic in New York City has been doing. The ***NYC Pain MD*** doctors have been able to help thousands of knee arthritis sufferers with cutting-edge treatments and technology older generations could only dream about. One of these treatments in particular has helped thousands of patents ease or eliminate pain and go back to doing their favorite activities like: walking, playing golf, tennis and many more. The treatment is called viscosupplementation. *But wait.* This is NOT the typical viscosupplementation. So if you are one of the many knee arthritis sufferers who already had viscosupplementation and did not get great results - what you are about to discover should be very important. to you in particular. It might even get you out of pain.

Here is why: During viscosupplementation, a special lubricating gel is put directly into your arthritic knee joint. This not only helps the knee joint to glide more smoothly, it acts as a cushion, protects the joint. and relieves a lot of pain. This is often referred to as "joint oil." In many cases, when done properly, this can dramatically lessen knee pain for up to 6 months and much longer in many cases.

And even better - if this treatment works for you the first time - it can be safely repeated when necessary and the results are often better for some.

Like Threading A Needle?

The key to this treatment being successful is actually getting the special lubricating gel directly into the joint where it can go to work. That's why the doctors at ***NYC Pain MD*** use very advanced digital imaging that allows them to see directly into the joint and make sure the lubricating gel "hits the spot" and the treatment has the best odds for success. Studies show that doctors doing these types of procedures without this special imaging actually miss the joint space up to one third of the time!



"I've had trouble with my knee walking. I'm a golfer and want to play golf but I couldn't. I made the call and went and it's the best thing I ever did. It's just – now I can play golf, I can walk, I can climb stairs, I can do things I did many years ago".

"It's the smartest thing ever did" "Since I've been going for the treatment for my knees I don't' take any pills, I take not over the counter medication.."

"This a good alternative to surgery." "I am so glad I went. I'm so confident I feel so good about it and I recommend It to everybody." *William La Spina* . Golf Enthusiast

(While we cannot guarantee that all knee arthritis pain sufferers will respond like the patient noted above, we can say these results are possible.)

Why Treatment Can Fail

This is why viscosupplmentation can fail for some people. It is also why many knee arthritis sufferers come to ***NYC Pain MD*** after failed treatments elsewhere... and are finally able to get relief. It is not uncommon for patients to travel hours for these advanced and precise treatment methods.

Patients Should Be Assured About Prescsion Treatments

If you have already had this procedure without this advanced imaging... Or if it was not used throughout the procedure, there is a good chance you did not get the maximum results you could have and should have.

What The Research Says About Results: Can We Slow Down Arthritis? A retrospective study of nearly 1000 cases of knee arthritis between 49 and 79 years old was done by an orthopedic surgeon in Lousiana. Patients with Grade 4 or "bone to bone" who presented for consideration of knee replacement were instead put on a program of image-guided gel injection procedures. Follow up almost 4 years later revealed that about 3 of 4 had done well and had not need surgery...regardless of age or even if overweight.

Another study was done by Pearl Diver research group who reviewed 198,000 files of those who underewent this type of treatment. Follow up 2 years later revealed 82% had not required surgery.

Massive Cost Saving For Patients, Insurance Companies & Medicare?

While surgery may be the best option for some...for others, due to fear of surgical risk, medical ailments that may prohibit surgery or for those that are just seeking less invasive alternatives, the costs savings can be staggering. In a study published in the American Journal of Managed Care, a potential savings of $4706.00 per patient if treated with viscosupplementation was estimated . In a theoretical population of 100,000 (NYC is over 10 million) over a 3 yr. period, 808 knee replacements were projected to be avoided and up to $9,131,819 could potentially be saved by patients, medicare and insurance carriers. *This should be welcome news for rising health care costs.*

Who Can Benefit From This Treatment?

This treatment is not for everyone. But it may be for you if you have sensations of grinding or rubbing, pain on simple weight bearing, getting up from sitting or even simply

reatments Their Parents Could Only Dream About

Patients Go Home With Just A Band-Aid On The Knee... No Surgery - No Hospital

when bending your knees, struggling up and down stairs (like subways), have pain on walking, feel tight and stiff after activities or in the morning or just cannot move like you used to. If this sounds like you, then seeing one of the specially trained doctors at ***NYC Pain MD*** could be the best thing you could do for yourself . But it is suggested you do not wait as arthritis can easily worsen with more time.

And this is very important - especially for those who have had viscosupplmentation in the past without good results. Many patients who did not have good results elsewhere are often able to get a favorable results because of the advanced imaging technology and procedure experience at ***NYC Pain MD.***

Even doctors themselves are often patients at NYC Pain MD.

How to Find Out If The Experts At *NYC Pain MD* Can Help You

If you have knee arthritis pain and would like to see if this treatment might help you - the experts at ***NYC Pain MD*** offer a complimentary screening appointment.

This screening will help determine if you are a candidate for treatment and also gives you a chance to get all your questions answered.

If you are a candidate, you will leave knowing that you found the possible way to lessen or even eliminate your knee pain for 6 months or more for many patients.

There is no obligation and if you are not a candidate - the doctor will help you find the best approach for your particular case and refer you to the proper sources. To set up a screening at no cost, simply call **800-741-5340**

The *NYC Pain MD* 'X" Factor ?

NYC Pain MD is a high-tech medical facility equipped with all the necessary equipment to treat appropriate candidates right in their own in-office procedure suites. What does this mean for you? It means no stressful hospital, no intimidating surgical center or out patient facility visits.

This also means you don't have to be “Rich and Famous” because by avoiding all those "fancy" facilities you don't have to bear their severe costs which can often be several times the cost of the treatments themselves. Your experience is far more relaxing with personalized attention. The treatment is gentle. You will go home with nothing but a one inch band-aid on your knee. Many go home or right to work after these virtually painless treatments. There is little to no downtime .

The Secret To Knee Pain Relief? With precision advances in medical science and technology the caring doctors at ***NYC Pain MD*** have been able to help so many relieve their pain and get their active lifestyle back.

How To Get A No-Cost Screening & Find Out If This Knee Arthritis Treatment Is For You

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Tarana Burke marches at a #MeToo survivors march in Beverly Hills, California, last month. GETTY IMAGES

#MeToo founder to drop ball in Times Square on New Year's Eve

"With the new year comes new momentum to fuel this work, and we won't stop anytime soon," Tarana Burke said.

NIKKI M. MASCALI
@NikkiMMascali
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The #MeToo "silence breakers" have the designation of being Time magazine's most influential "person" of 2017, and now, the movement's founder, Tarana Burke, will usher in the new year live from Times Square.

Burke, who began the #MeToo movement a decade ago, will push the ceremonial Waterford Crystal button to signal the ball drop, which officially begins the 60-second countdown to 2018, Times Square Alliance and Countdown Entertainment, co-organizers of the New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square, announced Monday.

"New Year's is a time when we look at the most significant cultural and political moments of the last year, when we look for inspiration by honoring and giving a global platform to those who have made a difference," Tim Tompkins, president of the Times Square Alliance, said in a statement. "Tarana Burke's courage and foresight have changed the world this year, and, we hope, forever."

Burke said she is "delighted" to join in the occasion that will be watched by millions live and around the globe. "I think it's fitting to honor the Me Too movement as we close a historic year and set our intentions for 2018," she added. "With the new year comes new momentum to fuel this work, and we won't stop anytime soon."

Burke founded Me Too 10 years ago as a way to reach sexual-assault victims in underserved communities. The movement gained momentum and became a rallying cry in October when actress Alyssa Milano urged women to use it as a hashtag to show how common sexual harassment and sexual assault are.

"This is the fastest-moving social change we've seen in decades, and it began with individual acts of courage by hundreds of women — and some men, too — who came forward to tell their own stories," Time Editor in Chief Edward Felsenthal told NBC News after the magazine announced #MeToo's "silence breakers" were its Person of the Year.

BROOKLYN FIRE

Unattended lit menorah caused fire that that killed mom, 3 kids

An early-morning fire in Brooklyn Monday left a mother and three of her children dead, officials said. The Sheepshead Bay blaze also injured 10 people, including six firefighters.

The FDNY said that the fire at a single-family home on East 14th Street near Avenue S began around 2:30 a.m. while the family was sleeping. The home was occupied by a couple, their six children and a cousin.

The blaze began near the front of the home on the first floor before it "traveled quickly and severely damaged all three levels," the FDNY said in a tweet.

The 39-year-old mother, identified by PIX11 as Aliza Azan, was found dead on the second floor. The bodies of two of her sons, Moshe and Yitzah, ages 11 and 7, and 3-year-old daughter, Henrietta, were found nearby, police said.

The FDNY said in a tweet that an unattended lit menorah caused the blaze, which was deemed accidental. The family did have an operational smoke detector in the home, the department added.

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Trump 'would probably be a dictator by now' in any other country: Expert

The president's authoritarian tendencies look awfully familiar.

MICHAEL MARTIN
@MetroNewYork
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Donald Trump "would probably be a dictator by now" if the checks and balances in the American political system didn't exist, a conservative foreign-policy expert says.

"Trump as a personality type is probably no different from a Mussolini, a Peron, a Chavez. And if you were operating in Argentina or Italy, he would probably be a dictator by now. But luckily, he's not operating in those countries," Max Boot, the Jeane J. Kirkpatrick senior fellow for national security studies at the Council on Foreign Relations told Politico on Monday.

"The good news story of the first year of the Trump presidency is that there are checks and balances," he added.

Since the beginning of his term, Trump has been criticized for displaying authoritarian tendencies. He has called the American news media "the enemy of the people" and turned "fake news" into shorthand for any stories that are unfavorable to his administration, a vocabulary that has been adopted by authoritarian leaders around the world. During the first year of his term, Trump has been openly expressed admiration for authoritarian leaders, including Russia's Vladimir Putin, Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines and Turkey's Tayyip Erdogan, while swapping the diplomatic language typical of American presidents for bellicose rhetoric. Infamously, he threatened North Korea with "fire and fury the likes of which the world has never seen" and warned the country would be "totally destroyed" if it continued its nuclear testing.

"It's impossible to imagine any other president going before the U.N. General Assembly and referring to the dictator of North Korea as 'Rocket Man,' or issuing this series of blustery threats, which, frankly, are terrifying, and are raising the risk of a needless war," Boot said.

But Boot says Trump has been even more destructive domestically than in foreign policy. "[Trump is] undermining the rule of law," he says. "He's obstructing justice. He's lending the support of the presidency to monsters like Roy Moore. He is exacerbating race relations. He is engaging in the most blatant xenophobia, racism and general bigotry that we have seen from the White House."

Since the beginning of his term, Trump has been criticized for displaying authoritarian tendencies. GETTY IMAGES

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DREAMERS

'Dreamer' immigration bill not on Senate agenda

The Senate will not consider an immigration bill as part of year-end legislation but will turn to a measure protecting immigrant youths known as "Dreamers" in January, Sen. John Cornyn said Monday.

Cornyn also said that if Congress cannot meet an early March deadline for passing legislation providing the protections against deportation, President Donald Trump could extend that deadline if he chose to do so.

In interviews over the past several days, both Republican and Democratic lawmakers and aides said that talks on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals have been quietly making progress.

"The president has given us enough time to deal with this before March and so I think that's plenty of time and I expect us to meet it," Cornyn told reporters, adding, "If we can't, then the president could extend the deadline if he chose to do so. But this is something we're going to turn to, I'm sure, in January."

Tensions between Republicans and Democrats over the issue of protections for undocumented immigrants who entered the United States as children increased this fall after Trump took a hard line on the conditions for a deal. REUTERS

Trump strategy document says Russia meddles in domestic affairs worldwide

The Great Kremlin Palace is seen in Moscow. GETTY IMAGES

Talking points sent to U.S. embassies worldwide on what diplomats should say about the new strategy makes clear that the official U.S. position is tough on Russia.

President Donald Trump's administration said on Monday that Russia interferes in the domestic political affairs of countries globally, but stopped short of accusing Moscow of meddling in the 2016 U.S. election.

The criticism of Russia, laid out in a new national security strategy based on Trump's "America First" vision, reflects a view long held by U.S. diplomats that Russia actively undermines American interests at home and abroad, despite Trump's own bid for warmer ties with President Vladimir Putin.

"Through modernized forms of subversive tactics, Russia interferes in the domestic political affairs of countries around the world," said the document.

It avoided directly citing what U.S. intelligence agencies say was Russian meddling in last year's U.S. presidential election.

"Russia uses information operations as part of its offensive cyber efforts to influence public opinion across the globe. Its influence campaigns blend covert intelligence operations and false online personas with state-funded media, third-party intermediaries, and paid social media users or 'trolls,'" the document said.

Trump has frequently spoken of wanting to improve relations with Putin, even though Russia has frustrated U.S. policy in Syria and Ukraine and done little to help Washington in its standoff with North Korea.

In a speech laying out his strategy, Trump noted that he received a call from Putin on Sunday to thank him for providing U.S. intelligence that helped thwart a bomb attack in the Russian city of St. Petersburg.

Trump said the collaboration was "the way it's supposed to work."

"But while we seek such opportunities of cooperation, we will stand up for ourselves and we will stand up for our country like we have never stood up before," he said at the Ronald Reagan Building in downtown Washington.

The audience of about 650 people frequently applauded the speech. It included the military's Joint Chiefs of Staff, several Cabinet secretaries, lawmakers, military personnel and officials from the intelligence community and other agencies.

A U.S. Justice Department investigation is looking into whether Trump campaign aides colluded with Russia, something that Moscow and Trump both deny.

U.S. intelligence agencies have concluded Russians tried to tip the election to Trump through hacking and releasing emails to embarrass Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton and spreading social media propaganda.

Facebook, Google and Twitter Inc are facing a backlash after saying Russians used their services to anonymously spread divisive messages among Americans in the run-up to the election.

Other Western nations, including France, have accused Russia of trying to interfere in their elections.

Congress mandates that every U.S. administration set out its national security strategy. The new Trump strategy is influenced strongly by the thinking of top national security officials rather than that of the president himself, said one official involved in preparing the document.

The Republican president's strategy reflects his "America First" priorities of protecting the U.S. homeland and borders, rebuilding the military, projecting strength abroad and pursuing trade policies more favorable to the United States.

Harry Kazianis, an analyst at the conservative Center for the National Interest think tank, said, "While things with Moscow might be warm and fuzzy for the moment, President Putin will not take too kindly to being labeled as what essentially amounts to as an enemy of America." REUTERS

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The *best* Christmas episodes streaming

Christmas is around the corner, and the holidays are in full-mother-flipping-swing. Sure, you could deck the halls — or you could stay in, get cozy and binge watch Christmas episodes to get you into the holiday spirit. Here are five that you can't miss.

RACHAEL VAUGHAN CLEMMONS

"New Girl," "Santa"

Season 2, Episode 11, *(Netflix)*

The second season of "New Girl" is when the FOX series really hit its stride. And "Santa" is no different. The gang's all together for a last, pre-Christmas hurrah, hitting up as many holiday parties as they can. As a result? This episode has everything: Nick Miller's palpable anxiety, a Jessica Day freakout — featuring hot doctor Sam! — gingerbread cookie flavored shenanigans, and a magical, appearance by Black Santa. Oh, and a group, disjointed rendition of "O Come, All Ye Faithful" in a hospital, as you do.

"30 Rock," "Christmas Special"

Season 3, Episode 6 *(Hulu)*

A Christmas episode with all the heart and hilarious moments you've come to expect from Liz Lemon and the gang? Yes please. To avoid spending time with his mother — who he, um, accidentally hit with his car — Jack forces the TGS staff to put on a live Christmas Eve special. Liz, meanwhile, gets haughty about playing Santa for disadvantaged children, and it goes about as bad as you think. As Tracey says, "What's the past tense for scam? Liz Lemon, I think you just got scrumped."

"BoJack Horseman Christmas Special: Sabrina's Christmas Wish" *(Netflix)*

You'd be forgiven for now knowing that a special Christmas episode of "BoJack Horseman" existed. But now that you do know, here's a heads up: don't expect a light, heartwarming episode of television, like other standalone Christmas episodes. Instead, the episode offers BoJack and Todd hate-watching a very special episode of "Horsin' Around," acknowledging that holiday specials are "stupid, cynical cash grabs" — BoJack's words, of course.

"The O.C.," "The Best Chrismukkah Ever"

Season 1, Episode 13, *(Hulu)*

"The O.C." gave us a lot of essential popular culture moments and very attractive actors in their early 20s unconvincingly playing teenagers. And Chrismukkah! In this episode, Seth introduces the concept of a holiday meant to bring together the best parts of Christmas and Hanukkah. There's also love triangles, Marissa being the worst, and Ryan wearing a puka-shell necklace and worrying about his toxic family.

"Arrested Development," "Afternoon Delight"

Season 2, Episode 6 *(Netflix)*

Here's one episode of "Arrested Development" that I'll never forget. And it's because of Michael and Maeby performing the most uncomfortable (and entertaining) duet of "Afternoon Delight," while Michael slowly realizes that the song is crazy inappropriate. The Bluths also come together for their annual rebuild of the banana stand — after its annual destruction — and for an annual company Christmas party that devolves into chicanery, because that's the only way the Bluths know. Afternoon delight indeed.

The second-floor lounge of the Kellogg's NYC Café. PROVIDED

Cereals and hammocks

Kellogg's NYC Café is back, this time in Union Square with a DIY cereal bar and a second-floor lounge.

EVA KIS
@thisiskis
eva.kis@metro.us

If you can handle the sugar rush, the newly expanded Kellogg's NYC Café is now open with hammocks for lounging (or really creative cereal-eating).

A bigger and better — what else do you call adding indoor hammocks? — Kellogg's NYC Café has opened in Union Square.

After starting out in Times Square, the cereal café can now be found at 31 E. 17th St. It's five times the size of the original.

Billed as "a place for foodies and people to chill, create and explore the endless possibilities of cereal," the café's main attraction will likely be its row of hammocks in front of the floor-to-ceiling windows looking out over Union Square. Presumably for after you've finished your bowl of cereal, unless your mastery of physics is on par with Neil deGrasse Tyson's.

Speaking of the food, the menu is good news for people who think Froot Loops needed help in the sweetness department. Predesigned bowls include options like the Christmas Morning (Frosted Mini Wheats, cinnamon-roll croutons, crystallized ginger, toasted marshmallows, poached pears) and bananas Foster (Special K and Frosted Flakes, rum-roasted bananas, Mexican caramel, candied cashews).

The café also has a DIY cereal station — $4 for a bowl with unlimited toppings — that features more than 30 ingredients, some from the Union Square Greenmarket.

The non-cereal options are Eggo Waffles with Corn Flake-crusted chicken ($6) and Pop-Tarts either naked ($1) or as an ice cream sandwich ($6).

As a café, there are coffee drinks, including specialty ones ($6) like Froot Loops white hot chocolate caramel.

Kellogg's NYC Café is now open at 31 E. 17th St. Hours are Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

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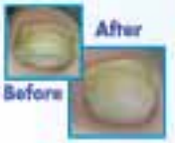

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Why cinematic musicals are making a comeback

Pasek & Paul, the composer duo behind "The Greatest Showman," talk Hollywood's latest trend.

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Hugh Jackman plays (and slays) the singing and dancing PT Barnum in "The Greatest Showman." 20TH CENTURY FOX

For a while there, "musical" was seen as a dirty word in Hollywood.

But while the huge financial haul of "Frozen" and the pop-culture phenomenon that is "Hamilton" contributed to its rehabilitation, the box-office and critical success of "La La Land" was the final push — and it persuaded studios to put more faith in the genre.

With a budget twice the size of "La La Land," "The Greatest Showman" — in theaters Dec. 20 — is the kind of blockbuster musical that 20th Century Fox is hoping will cement the genre's return. Hugh Jackman stars as P.T. Barnum, the singing and dancing founder of the famous traveling Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Both films have another thing in common: The lyrics for their songs were composed by the songwriting duo Pasek and Paul. And the pair insists the two films have served each other.

"'La La Land' getting made and going into production, having its success, that served 'The Greatest Showman,' because then the people behind it were much more confident about it," Justin Paul says over the phone.

"Audiences all over the world, who weren't necessarily interested in musicals, suddenly became interested, and realized that they didn't hate musicals."

Pasek and Paul originally learned about "The Greatest Showman" from a pitch by its director Michael Gracey, which was "so full of heart, and was bold, daring, colorful, whimsical, and larger than life" that it immediately piqued their interest.

GETTY

"We were mystified and challenged by it," Paul continues. "Because they wanted contemporary pop music but in this period story."

"We come from musical theater," Benj Pasek adds. "So we were used to a particular type of songwriting, which is much more theatrical. But this was a mixing of different worlds.

"We wanted to create songs that were joyful, and uplifting, and was something that you could share with your family," Pasek continues.

But while Pasek admits they are Broadway kids at heart — and will always come back to it as their middle ground, something the recent success of their original musical "Dear Evan Hansen" underlines — for them writing songs is the same process, regardless of the medium.

"It's us in a room banging our heads against the wall, trying to come up with a lyric or a melody that works with a character in a story," Pasek says. "For us, it doesn't make that much difference."

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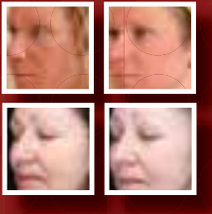

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Train shows are a holiday staple, and here's where to find the best in the city.

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We love (and love to hate) our urban trains all year long, but they have a special connection to the holiday season.

According to the curator of the National Christmas Museum in Pennsylvania, whose train set covers over 20,000 square feet, trains and the holiday season became linked through Nativity displays beneath the Christmas tree in the homes of mid-1700s Protestant Christians.

The Nativity displays grew more elaborate over the years, including homes and other structures that were more representative of where people lived. About a century later, that came to include trains — which conveniently ran in a circle. (And also conveniently, made great gifts for kids.)

So instead of falling down the uncanny valley of The Polar Express — sorry, Tom Hanks, but that is one place we can't follow you — check out these holiday train displays.

Holiday Train Show

There's no more spectacular display than the New York Botanical Garden's annual Holiday Train Show, where over 25 G-scale steam engines, street cars, freight and passenger trains hum along more than half a mile of track winding through more than 150 replicas of the city's most iconic landmarks crafted out of twigs, bark, seeds and pinecones by designer Applied Imagination. New for its 26th year are a revamped Empire State Building, the Chrysler Building, the General Electric Building and St. Bartholomew's Church. Don't forget special adults-only Bar Car Nights when you can browse the exhibit with cocktails. *Through Jan. 15, $23-$35, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, nybg.org*

Holiday scavenger hunt

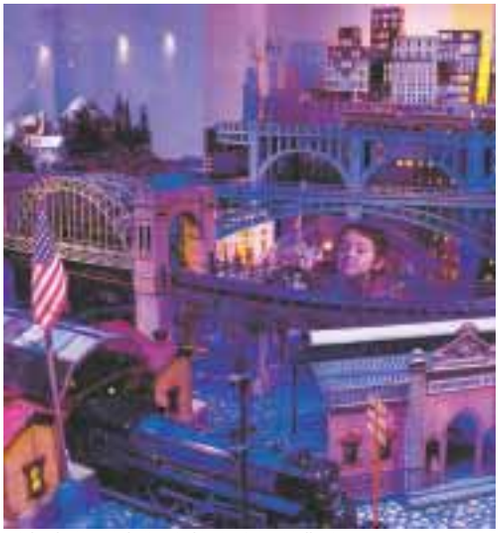
The holidays have come to New York City's smallest attraction. Gulliver's Gate in Times Square packs the entire world into a series of room-size miniature scenes tied together with model train tracks. For its first holiday season, the Holiday Scavenger Hunt challenges visitors to find iconic characters and pop culture moments from Christmas, Hanukkah and other traditions in the more than 300 scenes. Visitors pick up a checklist at the beginning of the attraction and check off the items as they walk through; find them all for a chance to win a 3D miniature model of yourself that can be taken home or placed into the exhibit. *Through Dec. 30, scavenger hunt free with admission ($36 adults, $27 kids), located at 44th Street and Broadway, gulliversgate.com*

Holiday Express: Toys and Trains from the Jerni Collection

You can't imagine New York without its trains, and each year the New-York Historical Society reminds us how they shaped the city throughout history. Marvel at hundreds of toy trains zooming through scenes of streets lined with gaslight lamps and gingerbread architecture, plus lighting and sound effects. The Holiday Express begins at the West 77th Street entrance, where animated trains appear to roar through the museum, then continues with real models from the Jerni Collection on the first floor. Kids can climb into a transparent sphere to get inside the display. *Through Feb. 25, 2018, free with admission ($21 adults, $6 kids), 170 Central Park West, nyhistory.org*

New York Transit Museum Holiday Train Show

Life-size trains are not the only kind you'll find at Grand Central Terminal during the holidays. Winding through the New York Transit Museum's Grand Central Gallery Annex & Store is a 34-foot-long, two-level display of O-gauge model trains zipping through tunnels and through subway stops with a gorgeous cityscape by artist Josh Cochran. There's also a gift shop of transit-themed goodies for the train lover on your list. *Through Feb. 4, free, located in the Shuttle Passage next to the Station Master's Office*



At left, the nature-built Coney Island landscape at the New York Botanical Garden; at right, the New-York Historical Society's Jerni Collection. PROVIDED

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Throwing axes in Gowanus

Kick Axe, an ax-throwing bar/lodge with a lumberjack vibe, merges drink and sport in a way we haven't seen before.

KATE MOONEY
@yatinbrooklyn
kate.mooney@metro.us

Free associate on "ax-throwing" and a few images come to mind: Gimli doing the race of dwarves proud in "Lord of the Rings"; cartoon lumberjack Paul Bunyan making tall tale history alongside Babe the Blue Ox; Jack hacking down the bathroom door to terrorize Wendy in "The Shining."

You're probably not picturing a lumberjack-style bar-lodge in Brooklyn where inebriated young folks pay to hurl hatchets at a wooden bull's-eye for sport, but here we are.

Kick Axe Throwing opened in Gowanus over the weekend, joining the neighborhood's roster of rec-sporty venues for grownups, like the Royal Palms Shuffleboard Club and Brooklyn Boulders, not to mention two Crossfit gyms.

On Sunday afternoon, I brought my most outdoorsy friend, Carrie, to have a throw with me. The 7,000-square-foot space on Degraw St., right next door to Parklife, is done up cozy lodge style, with Pendelton throws on couches, taxidermy on the walls and a photo area with flannels, faux hatchets and bear hats so you can strike your best Insta-lumberjack pose. You know, the pretty standard Brooklyn aesthetic. Farther in, there's the main event: 10 ax-throwing ranges, each outfitted with 3- and 5-pound axes and two wooden bull's-eye targets.

Kick Axe founder Ginger Flesher-Sonnier — who also founded Escape Room Live in Washington, D.C — learned about the sport of ax-throwing in Toronto, where recreational gyms are fairly common. With Kick Axe, she wanted to create a version with more of a lodgelike atmosphere, compared to the Toronto gyms, which she described as "all plywood and sawdust and gritty."

Pending its liquor license, a bar offering wine and beer is set to open as soon as the end of this week — because a little booze mixed with ax-wielding is just what we need! — along with Stuf'd, a food truck selling comfort food snacks and sandwiches.

During my visit, the vibe was pretty low-key, probably because it was a Sunday afternoon and everyone was sober.

A group of 12 dudes were there for a surprise birthday party. "It seems like the kind of place you'd want to be drinking. It's kind of slow. It's almost like bowling — people taking turns," said 34-year-old Andrew Fries. When I told him the bar is supposed to open next week, he said, "That's gonna be unbelievable. Throwing axes, getting kinda drunk. A little scary. Let's hope they have a

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Kick Axe Throwing, located at 622 Degraw St. in Gowanus, offers tipsy axe throwing with a lumberjack aesthetic. PROVIDED

Axe-throwing technique: Grip axe with two hands, square your shoulders and bring axe behind your head before releasing. CARRIE ROBLE

Kate Mooney sinks the bull's-eye. CARRIE ROBLE

good insurance policy."

Jokes about drunken ax murderers aside, safety precautions are a top priority at Kick Axe.

Each group is paired with an "ax-pert," a trained staff member who supervises each session.

Flesher-Sonnier explained to me that the ax-perts are TIPS-certified (Training for Intervention Procedures) to handle folks who are too intoxicated to throw, from removing drunk guests from the range to refusing their entry. You're not allowed to bring your drink into the range, and you can't take axes out.

She also noted that the axes aren't sharp to the touch, as dull axes throw better.

"You can't account for someone going crazy," she added, which didn't exactly inspire confidence.

The throwing itself was appealing. Our ax-pert, Adam, first walked us through the technique. With a two-handed grip, you square your shoulders, and bring the ax back over your head before releasing with a full follow-through. You can also try throwing one-handed, although aiming proves a bit more challenging.

Adam kept score as we played two games of first to 21, then first to 30. The bull's-eye is five points, with outer rings counting for four, three, two and one, and two seven-point "kill shots" in the upper right and left corners.

Making contact with the wooden target is more challenging than you'd think, and actually sticking the ax in the wood — required for the point to count — is even harder. Carrie, a natural, destroyed me the first two games, but I came around and beat her in the last. We both saw more axes thud against the board and drop to the ground than stick.

As with any accuracy-based sport, be it darts or bowling or golf, until you get good, you're going to suffer through a lot of frustrating misses. But when you nail it, it's very satisfying — as is the pleasing sensation of wiggling the ax free from the wood.

After a half hour or so of consecutive throwing, we were sweaty and needed a water break. Did this out-of-the-box pastime count as fitness?

Ax-pert Erica Ferguson described it as "adventurous self-care."

"It's something that you don't do in your normal routine, so it shocks your brain," she told me. A former D1 basketball coach at Mercer University in Georgia, the new BK resident took the job at Kick Axe as a fun and active way to pay the bills while she launches a health and wellness site called The Daily Power Hour.

She likened ax-throwing to a game of catch. "If you think of throwing a baseball, it's kind of that same competitive motion." She also joked that it doubles as training for a zombie apocalypse.

Carrie and I both agreed we'd check it out again, although, the thought of being in a room full of inebriated folks throwing axes does scare us. We'd definitely opt out of ax-throwing on any future first dates.

Kick Axe Throwing is located at 622 Degraw St. in Gowanus, Brooklyn. Book 75-min sessions at $35 per person with online reservation, or one-hour walk-ins at $28. Kick Axe Throwing is coming soon to Philly and Washington, D.C.. Visit Kickaxe.com for more info.

METS OWNERS EMBODY INCOMPETENCE

OPINION

JOE PANTORNO
@JoePantorno

Incompetence (noun): an inability to do something successfully; ineptitude.

As I attempted to rack my mostly-empty brain for the correct word to describe the ownership of the New York Mets — which consists of Fred and Jeff Wilpon — "incompetence" sprang from the darkest caverns and shot like a rocket to the front of my cerebral cortex.

You see, after years of watching the Mets being run like a small-market team, this was an assumed formality.

Most of the time, there was a hesitance to make a big splash and acquire a huge name on the market. Sure, there have been exceptions over the years whether it be Mike Piazza or Carlos Beltran or Yoenis Cespedes.

But competing in the largest sports market in the country across town from a team (the Yankees) that makes mammoth moves mundane, one would expect ownership and management to be a little more aggressive when it comes to making improvements to the team.

And why shouldn't they go all in every year? Did you see just how crazy this city went when they won the pennant in 2015?

Yet a team poised to make runs in 2016 and 2017 did little to improve and then fell flat. Now, all of a sudden, the prospect of a pseudo-rebuild seems like a more feasible outcome for the Mets than competing for the National League East title.

It makes 2015 seem like a million years ago.

Somewhat unsurprisingly, the Mets did little at the 2017 MLB Winter Meetings in Orlando. With glaring needs in the bullpen, starting rotation, first base, second base and even third, the Mets came away with reliever Anthony Swarzak.

The Wilpons continue to withold the Mets from success. GETTY IMAGES

That was it.

After all, general manager Sandy Alderson did state toward the end of the 2017 season that the team wanted to cut the payroll its $155 million. If anyone knows why, please inform the entire New York media, who are also searching for an amount of just how much the team can spend this winter.

Alderson attempted to explain why the Mets didn't do more last week in Orlando, saying he felt comfortable with his bullpen and youngster Dominic Smith, whose status with the team looked to be in question after the team expressed interest in free-agent Carlos Santana (who signed with the Phillies).

Something didn't add up. But Newsday's Marc Carig just made things a whole lot more clear as to why the Mets are such a mess:

"According to sources, the front office has only a fuzzy idea of what they actually have to spend in any given offseason. They're often flying blind, forced to navigate the winter under the weight of an invisible salary cap. This is not the behavior of a franchise that wants to win."

So basically, the Wilpons and Alderson have the keys to a really nice car, not quite a Ferrari (I classify the Yankees under the Italian auto giant), and are tasked in driving it as fast as they can, to the best of their ability. However, they don't know how much gas is in the car, what the top speed is, or how it's been tuned.

Unbelievable.

For the first time since the turn of the millennium, the Mets looked as though they had something good going for them.

Sure, injuries and some downright bad luck have played a part in tempering those expectations. But an ownership group that is toeing the line of buffoonery (which is the nicest way I can put it), that can't even figure out how much money their general manager can spend is in no way fit to own an Arby's, let alone a Major League Baseball franchise.

But greed is a difficult thing to shake and the Wilpons, instead of putting the best interest of their club first and selling the team, are content on fielding a second-division club and stealing from their fans, who continue to turn up at Citi Field to see an inconsistent, frustrating product.

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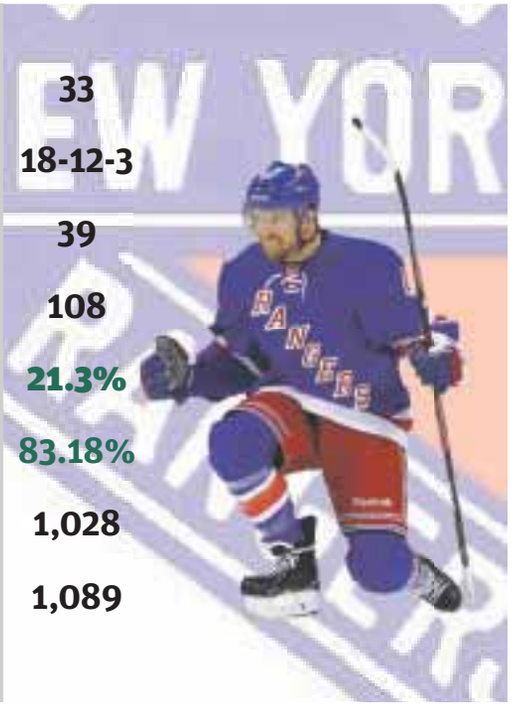
Isles, Rangers almost identical through first 33 games this year

	2017 STATS	
33	GAMES	33
18-12-3	RECORD	18-12-3
39	POINTS	39
118	GOALS	108
20.18%	POWER PLAY	21.3%
73.0%	PENALTY KILL	83.18%
1,022	SHOTS	1,028
1,076	SHOTS ALLOWED	1,089

JOE PANTORNO



Isles Belmont decision could come this week

Jim Baumbach of Newsday reported on Monday that New York state could announce the winning bid for the land near Belmont Park in Elmont as early as Wednesday.

The heavy favorite for the 43 acres of land is the New York Islanders, who are in desperate need of a new home after a short stint at the Barclays Center has proved to be a disastrous one.

The Islanders moved to Brooklyn in 2015 following a 43-year stay at the Nassau Coliseum on Hempstead Turnpike on Long Island.

At the site in Elmont, which is just seven miles down Hempstead Tpke. from the Coliseum, the Islanders are looking to build an 18,000 seat arena (16,500 hockey) that would host 150 events each year, including NHL games and concerts.

They also wish to develop an additional 435,000 acres for retail space while adding a hotel to the grounds, which would be reminiscent of the Long Island Marriot that was just a stone's throw away from the Nassau Coliseum. JOE PANTORNO

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3. Quenton Nelson, G, Notre Dame
4. Saquon Barkley, RB, Penn State
5. Minkah Fitzpatrick, S/CB, Alabama
6. Calvin Ridley, WR, Alabama
7. Bradley Chubb, DE, NC State
8. Mike McGlinchey, OT, Notre Dame
9. Baker Mayfield, QB, Oklahoma
10. Lamar Jackson, QB, Louisville
11. Denzel Ward, CB, Ohio State
12. Connor Williams, OT, Texas
13. Derwin James, S, Florida State
14. Roquan Smith, LB, Georgia
15. Kolton Miller, OT, UCLA
16. Donte Jackson, CB, LSU
17. Da'Ron Payne, DT, Alabama
18. Arden Key, DE/OLB, LSU
19. Ken Webster, CB, Ole Miss
20. Cleilin Ferrell, DE, Clemson
21. Courtland Sutton, WR, SMU
22. Christian Wilkins, DT, Clemson
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Pursuant to a judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on May 31, 2017.
I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Supreme Courthouse, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Courtroom # 25, Jamaica, N.Y. on the 19th day of January, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. premises described as follows:
All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York.
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Approximate amount of lien $934,127.96 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale.
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SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR LEHMAN MORTGAGE TRUST MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-3, Plaintiff Against PASANG SHERPA, CHHIME G. SHERPA, DENZINGSHERB SHERPA, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on October 11, 2017. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Supreme Courthouse, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Court Room # 25, Jamaica, N.Y. on the 5th day of January, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. premises described as follows: All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Second Ward, of the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York. Said premises known as 9030 70th Drive, Forest Hills, N.Y. 11375 (Block: 3896, Lot: 23) Approximate amount of lien $ 793,154.83 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 20211-09 Peter Wolf, Esq., Referee. McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, P.C. Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 145 Huguenot Street, Suite 210 New Rochelle, New York 10801 (9140 636-8900

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number Pending, for On Premise Liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider at retail under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 90 North 11th St., Brooklyn, NY 11249. Kings County, for on-premises consumption. Brooklyn Billiards LLC.

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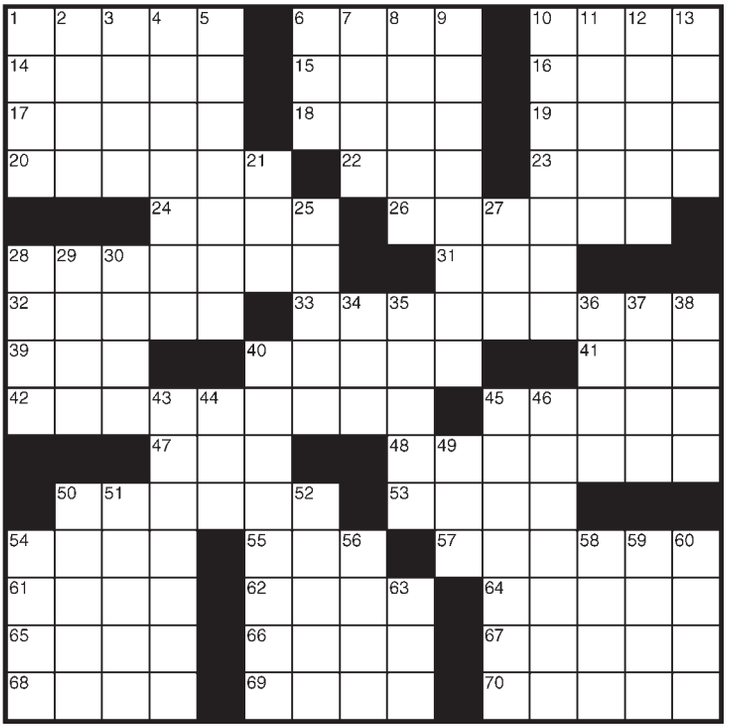
Across
1 Rack
6 Open wide
10 Kangaroo pouches
14 Smoker's choice
15 Psychic's intro (2 wds.)
16 Sleep like -- --
17 Prince Val's wife
18 Edible seeds
19 Painter -- Chagall
20 Mark down
22 Technique
23 Wrist-to-elbow bone
24 Felt sorrow over
26 Annual
28 Outspokenly
31 Youth org.
32 Popular lily
33 In a listless manner
39 Between pi and sigma
40 Some parents
41 Aussie jumper
42 Replaces
45 Big house
47 Carpet
48 Couple
50 Photos
53 Luke Skywalker's guru
54 Shorten an article
55 Drink like Fluffy
57 Miss Piggy's friend
61 Monthly expense
62 Tiant or Aparicio
64 "Hasta --!"
65 Fasten permanently
66 "-- Karenina"
67 "Crocodile Rock" singer -- John
68 Failing that
69 Bothers persistently
70 Tractor pioneer

Down
1 Lacerate
2 Bath decor
3 Developed
4 Not artificial
5 Fearsome vampire
6 Puppy noise
7 Crossing the ocean
8 Bushed
9 Savings (2 wds.)
10 Shogun's warriors
11 -- -- costs
12 Trite
13 Pet lovers' grp.
21 Conger
25 "Like a Rolling Stone" singer
27 Tempe inst.
28 Playback machines
29 Maui neighbor
30 Filly's footfall
34 Lb. or tsp.
35 Mean
36 First 007 movie (2 wds.)
37 Weaving machine
38 Nostalgic time
40 Globe circumnavigator
43 Jabber
44 Clumsy person
45 Shaped clay
46 Usually (3 wds.)
49 Stir-fry pan
50 Having no drawbacks
51 Skimpy skirts
52 Condo luxury
54 Ocean flier
56 Metallic sound
58 Distribute
59 Borodin prince
60 Shape up
63 Eur. carrier



metro.us/sudoku

easy

		4		7		1		
8		1		5			2	
		2		4	6			3
1	6			8	7			
			5	9			6	8
4			7	2		8		
	8			3		6		1
		3		1		9		

hard

	6			7		9		
		9			8	5	7	4
7			9					6
5			3			8	2	
	8	3			6			9
6					5			8
1	3	8	4			2		
		2		8			3	

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Don't let your generosity get the better of you. It's nice to spend money or do things for others, but not if it breaks the bank.

Taurus Express your thoughts and listen to the opinions and suggestions of others. Sticking to a sound plan will ensure you come out on top.

Gemini Compassion and understanding will make you feel good about yourself and your life. A gift or some unexpected cash is heading your way. Romance is in the stars.

Cancer A unique idea will help you surprise someone you love. Socializing, shopping and getting into the spirit of the season are encouraged. Trust your instincts.

Leo Emotional matters will escalate quickly if you aren't prepared to compromise and listen to good advice. Personal change will help you stabilize your relationship with a loved one.

Virgo Making plans with friends or relatives will give you something to look forward to. Pick up items you can use to help you close out the year.

Libra Get together with a friend or plan a shopping trip with someone searching for the same items you are. Romance is on the rise and will improve your personal life.

Scorpio Make sure you know what's expected of you. An unusual approach to family matters and involvements with close friends and relatives will make it easier to avoid conflict.

Sagittarius Think about home improvements you want to make. A lifestyle change will give you greater freedom to enjoy the people and pastimes you care about most.

Capricorn Your intuition won't let you down. If you look at the big picture, you'll know exactly what to do next. It's OK to take the road less traveled. Do your own thing.

Aquarius Keep your life simple and don't draw attention to what you are doing. Helping less fortunate people will make you realize how lucky you are.

Pisces Do what you can to help others, but not if it means losing out on something you want. A financial gain is apparent, but don't be extravagant. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

D	U	S	T	■	M	A	L	L	■	■	G	A	D	
O	L	E	O	■	A	X	I	O	M	■	M	I	C	A
G	N	A	T	■	R	E	A	D	Y	■	A	L	I	T
E	A	R	T	H	Y	■	R	E	N	E	G	A	D	E
■	■	■	E	E	L	S	■	S	A	T	E	■	■	■
D	O	O	R	M	A	T	S	■	H	A	N	G	A	R
R	I	G	■	S	N	A	C	K	■	S	T	O	L	E
I	L	L	S	■	D	I	A	N	A	■	A	F	A	R
V	E	E	P	S	■	D	R	A	C	O	■	E	M	U
E	R	R	A	N	D	■	E	V	A	P	E	R	O	N
■	■	■	C	U	R	S	■	E	D	A	M	■	■	■
F	A	T	I	G	U	E	S	■	E	L	A	P	S	E
A	N	O	N	■	I	D	I	O	M	■	I	R	A	N
M	I	N	G	■	D	A	L	A	I	■	L	E	V	I
E	L	I	■	■	■	N	O	R	A	■	S	P	E	D

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